

[7 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3	4	5	6
25. Tripura		35		35	
26. Uttar Pradesh		370	150		520
27. Uttaranchal		95			95
28. West Bengal		221		100	321
TOTAL		3480	750	750	4980
29. LWE, Border Distt. R&D		95			95
30. Admn. Expenses, QC, PMC/PIC	140.62				140.62
31. NRRDA		10			10
33. GRAND TOTAL		3725.62	750	750	5225.62

Slow pace of road construction under PMGSY

†1003. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural roads in the States are in very poor condition due to slow pace of construction of roads under PMGSY in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to accelerate the pace of construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Rural Road is a State subject. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of providing connectivity by way of an all weather road to all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 and above [250+population size in Hill States, Desert Areas and Tribal (Schedule V) Areas].

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of implementation of PMGSY. The budgetary allocation for the programme has been systematically increased. During the year 2003-04, allocation for this programme was Rs. 2325 crore. In 2006-07, this has been raised to Rs. 5225.62 crore (Rs. 5475.62 crore at Revised Estimate stage). In addition, a separate window with a corpus Rs. 4000 crore has been created in NABARD for financing rural roads under Bharat Nirman. For the year 2007-08, budgetary allocation has been further raised to Rs. 6500 crore. In addition, Rs. 4000 crore will be available through the special window of NABARD. Implementation of programme is being monitored continuously. Standard bidding document provides for interest free advance for procurement of required Plants and Machinery. Training to contractors' staff and field staff is also being imparted to improve productivity and efficiency.

Ranking for implementing rural development schemes

†1004. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rural Development Ministry has started a ranking method for implementing the Rural Development Schemes;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage the States lagging behind in implementation of the rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The States have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) awareness generation, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's participation, (iv) accountability/social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels, for proper implementation and maximum utilization of funds under rural development programmes. The Ministry also helps the State Governments by providing technical guidance and training for capacity building.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.